



The Idaho Career Information System (CIS)

CIS is a state entity whose mission is to provide information to the residents of the State of Idaho that helps them ***become aware of the world of work, understand the link between education and work, and make successful career decisions.***

Fast Facts:

- Established in 1980
- Governed by a multi-agency board of directors
- Internet based
- ALL Idahoans can access through:
 - The Department of Commerce & Labor
 - Most high schools
- **113,983 people, or 12.5%** of Idaho's population, is projected to use CIS this year

Who we serve:

CIS is the state system for career information.

Currently **93% of all school districts** in the State serving 7th-12th grades subscribe to CIS.

Of those schools 91% are Idaho high schools and 61% are schools serving junior high/middle school students.

Agencies/Organizations Using CIS, FY2005:

Secondary schools	225
Postsecondary schools	26
Job service offices	24
Vocational Rehab. offices	28
Corrections	11
Other organizations	33

Total sites	347
Total users	113,983

How we help Idaho:

CIS helps foster ***economic development in Idaho*** with:

- Links to current job openings in Idaho and the nation.
- Contact information for over 9,000 Idaho employers.
- Information on all 2- and 4-year schools in the nation, with additional detail on Idaho schools.
- A realistic picture of the future work trends and wages for all occupations.
- Detailed scholarship and financial aid information, including over \$155 million worth of Idaho and national scholarships and grants—all researched and verified annually.
- Information on training options for any career field.

A resource in education reform:

CIS helps Idaho families and students keep current with important educational initiatives and mandates by providing:

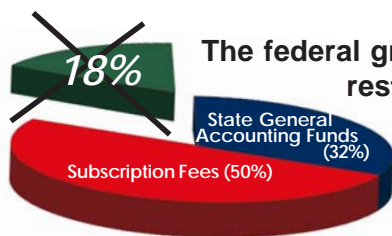
- 4-6 year online planners that are flexible, interactive and adaptable as students progress or state requirements change.
- Direct links to updated graduation requirements and career cluster information.
- An Internet-based system, ensuring access any time the user needs it.
- Relevant, current, unbiased information.
- Service and participation on committees, and close working relationships with entities such as:
 - The Accelerated Learning Task Force
 - The Division of Professional-Technical Education
 - The State Board of Education
 - Idaho Teachers and Guidance Counselors

Our funding dilemma:

Historically ***students and clients have been able to use CIS free of charge*** through over 350 schools and subscribing agencies.

CIS has been funded by three funding sources:

- Federal grant monies (Section 118 of the Carl D. Perkins grant)
- State legislative appropriation monies
- Fees collected from schools and agencies subscribing to CIS



The federal grant was not

restored for Federal FY2006, effective for the Idaho FY beginning July 1, 2006 – a loss of \$120,000.00, or 18% of the CIS operating budget.

These monies have helped to provide students, teachers, counselors, career specialists and parents with resources to help their students and clients make important life decisions at a substantially lower cost level.

CIS is actively looking at other ways to generate additional funds so that we can continue to serve the citizens of Idaho at the same level as in the past.

(Over)

Idaho Career Information System (CIS)

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Compared to Generic, Non-State-Based Systems:

Idaho CIS belongs to a 17-state consortium of state-based career information systems. By doing so we are able to leverage our resources to produce a superior product that is both nationally and state relevant while keeping costs to our subscribers low.

Idaho CIS is the only entity that can provide current, unbiased state and national information.

State-specific information and services

- Current Idaho wages, outlook, and employment projections for over 500 occupations.
- Information on the accredited proprietary schools (cosmetology, truck driving, technical).
- Detailed information on all two-year, four-year, graduate, and certificate programs offered within the state.
- Current links to Idaho employers.
- Listing of national and Idaho financial aid sources.
- Local service, free training, local educational and industry initiatives help to guide CIS program development.

What students say:

"I have discovered new careers that are open to me, and learned the types of education these would require, and even identified specific classes to take!"



"Now that I have a little bit of a feel for what a long run I'm in for, I know what I need to do to succeed in the future. I've learned a lot more about myself and what I need to do to become a pediatrician."

"Through CIS...I have learned there is so much more out there than just doctors and nurses. The medical field is an endless opportunity gold mine!"

- Kathleen McCarter's "Technology and Careers" students,
Meridian Medical Arts Charter School

What career development professionals say:

"I'm afraid that I do not have a specific story about one particular client. For me, that is kind of like asking a carpenter to give a success story about his hammer. The hammer is not something that you'll really be able to specifically give credit to for a completed structure but, to be sure, the carpenter would not have been able to build without his hammer."



"CIS is simply a standard and completely necessary tool that is used with the rest of the tools with which he builds. CIS is a tool I reach for with almost every client with whom I'm associated."

Is Career Information Necessary?

2004 Idaho Public Policy Survey:

(Idaho Professional-Technical Education Survey, produced by Clearwater Research)

- 86% of respondents agreed **career exploration opportunities should be available in middle schools and/or junior high schools.**
- 93% of **students need more information about careers** and the type of education required to enter those careers *while in junior and high school.*
- 95% of parents need more information about careers and education requirements for those careers **to assist their children in high school course selection.**

"The Educational, Social, and Economic Value of Informed and Considered Career Decisions":

(Scott Gillie and Meegan Gillie Isenhour, Fall 2003)

Informed and considered career decisions are linked to improved educational:

- achievement,
- attainment, and
- efficiency.

Students who make informed and considered career decisions are more likely to graduate from high school and to succeed in postsecondary education.

More than five times as many people enter careers by chance than through the assistance of career professionals. This results in:

- a high degree of occupational mismatch,
- job dissatisfaction,
- job-related stress, and
- depression

(all estimated to cost employers \$44 billion annually).

People who make informed and considered career decisions reduce the likelihood of mismatch and increase the likelihood of "fit," which is characterized by **increased job satisfaction.**

Use CIS at: www.idahocis.org

User name: legislator Password: cis2006

- Doug C. Clapp, M.S., C.R.C.
Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Westgate IDVR Office